

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

May 23, 2016

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

Warrants: Warrant Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Martha Freedman came before the Board on behalf of the Town Clean-Up Committee to thank the Selectmen and Highway Department for the 8th Annual Clean-up Day. Mrs. Freedman also thanked the 45 people who volunteered and local merchants for donations towards raffles. Mrs. Freedman stated that it was a great success. Ron Tinkham, a member of the Finance Committee, came before the Board and stated that the Board and Finance Committee budgets are a bit out of sync and he would like to have a joint meeting to come to some type of solution. Mr. Sieloff stated that there is only one difference in the budgets which is the Fire Department stipends. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Finance Committee voted on the budget before the Board had finished reviewing it. Mr. Sayers stated that perhaps with next year's budget a joint meeting could be had with both the Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Permit(s) / Contract(s) / Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / Appointment(s)

Senior Work-Off Program Appointments – Mary Reilly and Barbara Pomeroy

Mr. Sieloff stated that both seniors are working with the Town Accountant and the Town Clerk. Mr. Sayers asked how many people are assisting the Town Clerk. Mr. Sieloff stated that he believed 3 or 4 were helping and also the Board of Registrars assist with voter registrations. Mr. Sieloff stated that 24 people are currently working with the Senior Work-off Program. Mr. Goerlach stated that he believed there were only supposed to be 20. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would have the Council on Aging Director attend the next meeting to discuss.

Trybus Holiday Tree Proposal

Samantha Trybus from 75 Orebed Road came before the Board to ask about planting a holiday tree in Memorial Park. Ms. Trybus stated that they have already raised \$325 towards the purchase of the tree and they are seeking more donations for decorations. Joe Trybus stated that he spoke with the Tree and Forest Committee and when the tree gets unmanageable in 35 years they will cut it down and donate it and then raise new funds for a new tree. Motion 16-071. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the planting of a holiday tree in Memorial Park, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Goerlach stated that he and Mr. Sayers would like to donate and Police Chief Timothy Sorrell stated that the Lanesborough Basketball Association would also like to donate.[#1]

Information regarding Berkshire County Mosquito Authority

Christopher Horton from the Berkshire County Mosquito Authority came before the Board and presented literature regarding integrated mosquito management. Mr. Horton stated that they are a State entity which addresses problems and comes up with solutions within the Town as Berkshire County is a mosquito prone area. The Berkshire County Mosquito Authority has an affiliation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health which keeps track of mosquito-borne illnesses and makes recommendations regarding possible outbreaks. Catch basins are treated because they are a breeding area for West Nile virus and are only treated when necessary. Mr. Goerlach asked about potential cost. Mr. Horton stated it would be approximately \$15,000 a year. Mr. Sayers asked about ticks. Mr. Horton stated that they have treated individual properties but not an entire Town. Robert Barton asked what other towns are using the services. Mr. Horton stated that services are provided to Clarksburg, Pittsfield Hinsdale, Otis Tyringham, Sheffield, Stockbridge and Richmond. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if it could be placed on the Warrant. Mr. Sieloff stated that if the Board wanted to it could be added. Motion 16-072. Motion made by Robert Ericson to join the mosquito prevention program and place and recommend on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#2]

Narragansett Causeway Project Issues: Parking, safety, related projects nearby

Mr. Sieloff stated that Robert Barton has ideas which he would like to present to the Board relative to the project. Mr. Barton stated that he has been in direct contact with the engineer on the project. He was concerned with parking problems as the area will be more attractive to residents once completed and there will be very limited parking. Mr. Barton gave his suggestions on how to rectify the problem. The Board reviewed the plans previously submitted by MassDOT. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Board would have to speak with MassDOT if they wish to revise the plans and he believes the State will not be receptive to or pay for revisions. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to have a representative from MassDOT attend the next meeting. Mr. Sieloff asked Police Chief Sorrell if the Department could keep people from parking on the curb. Chief Sorrell stated that the Department could issue tickets. Mr. Sayers asked Mr. Sieloff to have the DPW Director measure the right of way on the road. Mr. Barton would also like speed bumps and a lower speed zone for safety issues which would be a cost to the Town. Mr. Sieloff asked Chief Sorrell about speed bumps. Chief Sorrell stated that it may pose a problem for the Highway Department with plowing. Mr. Goerlach stated if installed properly it won't pose a problem. Chief Sorrell suggested lowering the speed limit to 25 mph. Mr. Barton thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Goerlach would like to continue this meeting to Wednesday, May 25 at 10:00 a.m. to meet with the DPW Director at the site to discuss options.

Potential future Sunrise Street construction projects / gas pipeline

Mr. Sieloff stated that there may be a proposed local gas pipeline project for Sunrise Street residents. Ron Tinkham stated that the Sunrise Street residents have been petitioning the gas company to install natural gas on the street. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to pave the street if this project takes place. Mr. Tinkham stated that it is not in the street but on the side of it. Mr. Goerlach does not want to pave the road until the work is done. Mr. Tinkham stated that they should have a response from the gas company within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Sieloff stated that he could place this street last on the list to pave. Mr. Tinkham stated that the Town could call Sue Curry from the gas company to see what the likelihood is that this project will proceed. Mr. Goerlach stated that he had spoken to Ms. Curry and did not believe the project would move forward.

Chapter 90 Proposed Roads document execution

Mr. Sieloff presented paperwork to the Board from the DPW Director relative to this year's Chapter 90 projects which will be submitted to MassDOT. Motion 16-073. Motion made by Robert Ericson to have Sunrise Street placed last on the list of streets to pave and if construction will be done on the road to damage it paving will not take place, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 2-0. John Goerlach abstained from vote. [#3]

Lynne Court Drainage Issues

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with an email from the DPW Director regarding the drainage issue on Lynne Court. Repairs will begin next week and should be resolved by Memorial Day. Mr. Sieloff stated that this will be placed two meetings out for a follow up. [#4]

Bridge Street / Eversource Gate update

Mr. Sieloff stated that he met with a representative from Eversource and they are negotiating with the landowner for placement of a new or additional gate. Mr. Sieloff stated that Eversource placed the gate as part of a Homeland Security program to limit access to powerlines. Mr. Sieloff stated that this will also be placed on the Agenda two meetings out for a follow up.

Proposed Alarm Bylaw

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed Bylaw for their review and approval which is included as Article 18 in the updated Annual Town Meeting Warrant which is before them. Mr. Sieloff stated that this has been vetted by the Police and Fire Chiefs. Motion 16-074. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve, place and recommend Article 18 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#5]

Annual Town Meeting Warrant / Budget Article recommendation

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with the updated Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting for their review and approval. Motion 16-075. Motion made by Robert Ericson to place without any recommendation Article 2 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with new language for Article 3 as Town Counsel stated that the Massachusetts General Law has changed. Motion 16-076. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve, recommend and place Article 3 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 2-1. John Goerlach opposed. Motion 16-077. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve, recommend and place Article 7 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Henry Sayers Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would get language to add an article regarding the Mosquito Authority. [#5]

Employee recognition proposal

Mr. Sieloff proposed to the Board that the Town recognize employees for their years of service every five years. The Board would like also to recognize all those with 25 or more years at the next few meetings and then continue with the 5 year recognition program.

Adopt Police Chief Job Description

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a job description for the Police Chief for their approval and adoption. Motion 16-078. Motion made by Henry Sayers to adopt the Police Chief Job Description, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. [#6]

Report on Police Chief Evaluation per contract

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that he met with the Police Chief for his annual employee evaluation per the Chief's contract. Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a copy of the Employee Performance Review with his recommendations. Motion 16-079. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve a 2.5% raise for the Police Chief starting July 1, 2016, seconded by Henry Sayers Motion carried 3-0. [#7]

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

Mr. Goerlach spoke about an event which took place over the weekend at the Lake House on Route 7. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like to send a letter to the establishment with rules and regulations for future events.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Ericson stated that he would like the Board to send a letter to residents at Narragansett Avenue who are affected by the causeway project which will give them a proposed schedule of work. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would check into this. Mr. Sayers spoke about the illegal activity which has been taking place at Balance Rock Park. Mr. Sayers stated that he spoke with the State and they have agreed to close the gate every night. Mr. Sayers also spoke to the Police Chief and the Department will patrol the area. Mr. Goerlach asked about the vacation policy and how employees accrue and use vacation and sick time. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will check with the Town Treasurer. Mr. Tinkham asked about the high speed internet signs which are placed throughout Town. Mr. Sieloff stated that he spoke with the company and they are not allowed to place any more signs in Town. Mr. Sayers asked about the Beach Maintenance Plan which was included with the Agenda packet. Mr. Tinkham stated that the Conservation Commission is not allowing sand to be placed on the beach on Sunrise Street without a Beach Maintenance Plan. [#8] Mr. Sieloff stated that the DPW Director is going to rake and level out the existing sand at the beach. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board how they wished to proceed. Mr. Sayers stated that the Town should do what they can to make the beach look appealing. Mr. Ericson stated that maybe the Town should do the maintenance in the fall. Mr. Goerlach asked why the Conservation Commission is requesting this maintenance plan now. Mr. Sieloff stated that he believed it was due to the amount of sand that washed into the lake. Mr. Goerlach would like the guardrail posts at the corner of Balance Rock Road and Narragansett Avenue to be replaced due to an accident that took place. Mr. Sayers stated that insurance would take care of the cost. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would follow up with the DPW Director. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff to also follow up with the DPW Director on drainage issues on the property behind Bob's Country Kitchen.

Mr. Sieloff spoke with the Board about the building inspector position. He stated that he had an application from the assistant building inspector and asked the Board how they wished to proceed. Mr. Sieloff stated that the assistant inspector has a full time job and would have to have evening hours. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to be included in the interviews. Mr. Sayers stated that if they appoint the assistant inspector they would have to hire a new assistant. Mr. Goerlach and Mr. Sieloff will review the applications submitted and decide who to bring in for interviews. [#9]

Town Manager Report

Mr. Sieloff spoke about the Mount Greylock Superintendent's office situation. He would like to offer Lanesborough Elementary School as a place to relocate these offices in a leasing relationship. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wished to send a letter of inquiry to the Superintendent's office. Mr. Ericson stated that there is unused space at the Elementary School. Motion 16-080. Motion made by John Goerlach to send a letter to the Superintendent's office, seconded by Henry Sayers Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Goerlach spoke about new hires at the Highway Department. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board did not approve hiring two seasonal employees. Mr. Sieloff stated that many projects were put off last year due to the installation of the waterline and two employees were needed to finish these projects. Mr. Sieloff stated that it is good value for the Town and it's during construction season. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff to show him where this is in the budget. Mr. Sieloff showed him the budget line, which was created last year when the water project was developed. Mr. Goerlach said that the Board is just doing their due diligence by questioning this. Mr. Goerlach stated that he believed it was the Board's decision to hire employees and would like to see the applicants in the future. Mr. Sayers would like to meet the employees. Mr. Sieloff will bring them to the next meeting. Mr. Goerlach spoke about the purchasing of the Vacation Village building and renting out the space to the Superintendent's office.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of April 11 and 25 and May 5, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by John Goerlach to approve the Minutes of April 28, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Henry Sayers abstained from this vote.

Adjournment

Motion to continue meeting to Wednesday, May 25 at 10 a.m. made by Robert Ericson, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.

Footnotes:

[#1] Email from Tree and Forest Committee – Holiday Tree

[#2] Berkshire County Mosquito Authority Information

[#3] Chapter 90 Documentation

[#4] DPW Director Email regarding Lynne Court drainage

[#5] Proposed Annual Town Meeting Warrant

[#6] Proposed Police Chief Job Description

[#7] Memorandum from Town Manager and Employee Performance Review – Police Chief

[#8] Proposed Town Beach Maintenance Plan

[#9] Building Inspector Application